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SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1915.

British Dendrological Note

EVEN the war has not quenched the fire of humor that burns eternal in the English breast. On no less an authority than that funeral organ, Punch, it is announced, the following order has been issued to the English troops in Flanders:

Though on occasion it is necessary to take horses to trees, this should be avoided whenever possible, as they are sure to bark and thus destroy the trees.

Or, if the concluding passage of the order is to be construed as a scientific rather than a humorous note, at least it contains news for the dendrologist, and will fill the heart of the zoophilist with joy.

Germany Receiving Light

ACCORDING to some of the dispatches, the German government disapproves and will repudiate the action of the cruiser Prinz Eitel Friedrich in destroying the American sailing ship William P. Frye. There will be prompt reparation, it is said, for the injury inflicted and suitable punishment for the cruiser's captain.

It will be hoped that this is a correct statement of the German view. There can be no justification of this wanton violation of neutral rights, which incidentally is a direct slap at the attitude Germany has assumed with such firmness and conviction. The sooner Berlin forwards its disavowal, the greater the impression of fair dealing that will be produced.

National Solitude

MISS HELEN KELLER, the wonderful blind deaf-mute, whose experience has been the journey of a soul from dark to light, and whose story has stirred a nation, is threatened with pneumonia. The simple statement is enough to make the whole people grieve, and to start those praying who are accustomed to invoking divine aid. There are few of this generation who are unacquainted with the life of Helen Keller, and those few would do well to go to the nearest public library and read up on it. The remarkable sweetness, the enduring optimism, the confident faith of the blind deaf-mute who can see, hear and speak through years of tortuous training, have left their impress upon scientific history. She is a national ward, for none with her story can belong to any one community.

Here is a hope that she may avoid the litter trial that threatens her, and live long to enjoy what she may of the measure of understanding given her.

War and Poker

TRISTAN BERNARD, the French dramatist, has contributed to the Paris Temps an article in which he develops a parallel between poker playing and the tactics of war, and also indicates some differences which, in his opinion, prove that of the two, war and poker, the latter is the more honorable game. M. Bernard points out that "generals have the advantage over poker players; they use aeroplanes to discover the secrets of their opponents' hands, which is not considered good form in the clubs."

But the parallel, he insists, holds good none the less, especially in respect that both players and generals aim to deceive their adversaries and force them to err in order that they may profit by the errors. "Thus," concludes the writer, "the poker player evidently is familiar with the highest principle of the tactician. But players ought to know the game better than generals, because the former practice daily for years, and the latter only during war."

While M. Bernard is obviously an acute observer both of war and of the great American indoor sport, it is plain to see that his knowledge of poker is purely academic. If he had really "sat in" at an actual struggle he would have learned that the great poker player is born, rather than a slow product of experience, and has an instinctive distaste of the clumsy tactics by which generals win battles.

Copper Is King in War To-Day

"COTTON is King" was the cry of the South in the War Between the States. "Copper is King" might be the slogan of the present war, for the value of this metal for military purposes can hardly be overestimated, and, besides, it is a commodity which Germany must import in large part. If the seas were free, amalgamated copper stock would be booming at the present moment, because Germany would take all of the yellow metal—which is to her more precious than gold—that the United States could conveniently supply.

It is estimated that the German army shoots away 200 tons of copper a day, or 112,000 tons in a year. These figures indicate direct military needs, and do not include the vast amount of copper required in ship-building and for naval guns and torpedoes. Germany's home production of copper is only 40,000 tons, which is a fraction of the amount she needs. But copper used in industrial and domestic arts is now requisitioned by the

government, and practically all of the copper in Belgium has been seized.

The end of the copper supply is, nevertheless, in sight. If the end of it comes and Germany has no substitute, it is difficult to see how she can continue the war, except under the most enormous disadvantage. Germany, however, is not waiting for copper to give out before acting. It is stated that German scientists have discovered an alloy of other metals which will replace copper. If this report is true, human ingenuity has once more scored over natural disabilities.

Government Ownership and Regulation

MUCH attention has been attracted by the speech delivered in New York the other night by Oscar Underwood, Senator-elect from Alabama, and Democratic leader in the House of Representatives until Congress adjourned on March 4. Mr. Underwood predicted that if the people of this country should become convinced that public regulation of railroads was a failure, they would turn to government ownership rather than revert to the unregulated private ownership of twenty years ago.

To those who have watched and studied the growth of sentiment on this subject throughout the country, Mr. Underwood's words will carry conviction. It is inconceivable that the United States will ever again be induced to tolerate the abuses that sprang up under the old regime, and from which public regulation, through national and State commissions, has brought relative freedom.

Most of us are able to remember a time when the railroads played a conspicuous part in the politics of every State in the Union—when at the gathering of every Legislature there were present nearly as many railroad lawyers and lobbyists as there were representatives of the people. Of course, this situation was as the breath of life to the crooked politician. It was always possible by introducing hostile legislation to "shake down" the railroads and other big corporations. Equally, of course, the railroads retaliated in kind. The public interest was lost sight of completely.

Whatever else may be said of regulation—and, doubtless, it has many sins to answer for—it has made an end of this evil condition. Legislative scandals of the old corporation type are almost unknown. Railroads as a whole are managed with an honesty and integrity, as respects both operation and finance, that once were sufficiently rare to excite praise and admiration, but now are accepted as a commonplace. There are no modern-day repetitions of those miracles of high finance that made New Haven and Rock Island infamous.

Immunity from such conditions is the great blessing regulation has conferred. There have been incidental abuses. Railroads offer to the demagogue the same temptation that assails him when he views any aggregation of wealth, whether individual or corporate. He was quite ready to make his appeals to envy, malice and uncharitableness, and railroad history, unhappily, had provided him with glaring texts for almost every attack. In the effort to punish the railroads for past sins, they have been loaded in many instances with burdens they could not carry and serve at the same time the public function for which they were created.

Railroad bailing is no longer a popular pastime. Votes in popular elections, decisions of the Interstate Commerce Commission and the Supreme Court and views expressed by many distinguished men, from the President and Mr. Underwood down, all prophesy a new era of better understanding and fuller sympathy between public and corporation.

Confidence in regulation will increase as this era dawns and continues. The public is beginning to learn that it cannot destroy the railroads' earning power and expect either efficiency or development. Regulation by commission, at the same time, is losing its haphazard character and assuming a more scientific aspect. There is no reason to apprehend that through its failure this nation will be driven to the regrettable alternative of government ownership.

General Wood Properly Rebuked

AS THE Times-Dispatch and other newspapers predicted and the country expected, Secretary of War Garrison has rebuked General Leonard Wood's activities in connection with the so-called "American Legion." The rebuke is framed in diplomatic language, and with proper regard to General Wood's rank and the considerable services he has rendered to his country, but it is none the less direct and emphatic.

Mr. Garrison recites the fact that the department understands the value of having at hand a roster of persons on whom it may be wise and helpful to call in time of war, and that proper means are now being devised to gather and correlate this information. Then he continues:

Until the War Department has completed its consideration of the matter and has determined upon the way to deal most effectively therewith, I consider that it is undesirable for officers of the army to have any connection with organizations outside of the War Department, which are dealing, or contemplating dealing, with the same subject matter. For reasons which seem to me to be too obvious to require elaboration, those who are in charge of the military affairs of the nation should limit their activities with respect to military or quasi-military organizations to such as are connected directly or indirectly with the War Department.

The people as a whole will agree with Mr. Garrison that the reasons which should suggest the abstention of officers of the army from such outside activities as those of the American Legion are "too obvious to require elaboration." As we have said before in this connection, there is room for only one standing army in this country and a quasi-military organization, national in its scope, but privately officered and controlled, is as repugnant to propriety and good sense as it is to the genius of our institutions.

The surprising thing about the whole matter is that it should have been necessary, by means of a public rebuke, to direct General Wood's attention to these patent facts.

A Winsted, Conn., farmer bought a pair of flutrons twelve years ago, put them on the kitchen stove and announced that he was henceforth ready to marry a woman who could use them. No wonder he is still single.

In a German play called "Der Tag" the actor who impersonated the Kaiser wore no moustache. It was the Emperor's idea that his likeness should not be perceived, and with a moustacheless face he surely succeeded.

Citizens of New York attacked and wrecked the place of a saloon-keeper who conscientiously closed his place on Sunday. What chance has plain virtue in New York, anyhow?

SONGS AND SAWS

Sue and Her Sutor.

A young maid I once knew,
Whose front name I was Sue,
Was equipped with a regular sutor—
But this sutor of Sue
Was to shine as an elephant shooter.

So he picked an array
Of South Africans gay,
With a brass band fanned by a rooster,
And on one dismal day
He sailed far, far away
For the banks of the Euphrates.

'Twas a mean thing to do
To a girl fond and true,
For the cruel and thoughtless would hoot her,
And remark that poor Sue—
As quite every one knew—
Had no longer a sutor to suit her.

The Peasant's Story.

Isn't it a pity that this particular time of year doesn't add to its attractions the fact that it is the open season for spring poets?

The Family View.
"What do you mean," demanded the school principal, severely, "by calling your teacher an old cat?"
"I didn't," responded the pupil, "only said mother thought she looked like one, and father said she acted like one."

A Matter of Business.
Mr. Gooden: Don't you believe that honesty is the best policy?
Mr. Sharpe: Of course I do; but in business, whatever your general policy may be, it is wise to permit an occasional exception.

Lion-Hearted.
"He looks to me as though he feared absolutely nothing."
"Appearances are not deceptive, either. He has been married three times."

Making Up for It.
You'll notice as you walk abroad—
Unless overcome with blindness—
That some folks long on pity
Are short on simple kindness.

THE TATTLER.

Chats With Virginia Editors

"Tobacco is said to be a money crop—one to put money in regulation," says the *Pittsylvania Tribune*. "If you look at it that way you will probably come to the conclusion that something better is needed to put money on the wing; the eagles have their wings spread, but there is a scarcity of eagles flying." That's rather strange, when you come to think of it. All the money eagles we ever knew had developed flying to all the excellence of a fine art.

"New York is considering a measure to pension widows. We like the idea; it will spare trifling husbands into supporting their wives," says the *Newport News Press*. We don't know exactly what the Press means, unless it is that wives of worthless husbands may be tempted to qualify for pensions by the use of shotguns.

"A fortune teller in Richmond was given a year in jail for swindling a man out of \$1,000," says the *Chase City Progress*. "But ought not a man to be swindled who has \$1,000 and no more sense than to let a fortune teller get his hands on it?" On the other hand, is it right to encourage a fortune teller so inept at his job that he can't tell when the jail doors are about to yawn?

Says the *Lawrenceville Times*: "Let's trot out Old Man Prosperity and let him sit in the front seat, and then let's all go to work and keep him there. Imagination has been worked to a frazzle. Now let's have a dose of common sense, and the imaginary malady will soon cease to exist. Let's loosen up." Excellent advice—to all those who have the wherewithal to make the loosening-up process something more than a mere jangle of pocket knife and keys.

The *Harrisonburg News-Record*, apprehensive, seemingly, for a local tendency to infection from one part of a popular malady, devoted itself as follows: "We devoutly hope that the foot-and-mouth disease will overlook Rockingham as it travels around the country. We know of some people who have been afflicted with too much tongue for years, and that is a mouth disease enough for one county." The *News-Record* need not let its local pride run away with its discretion. There are others.

Current Editorial Comment

Europe's financial poverty is again illustrated by the sale in London of \$15,000,000 of Swiss government bonds. A few years ago that republic sold its bonds to its own people and got the money for 24 per cent. Now it comes to the United States, and pays 6 per cent for funds with which to purchase manufactured materials.

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improbable that this objection would be seriously pressed, for the reason that it is of no practical consequence, both Denmark and Iceland being able in any case to trade with Germany, not only by land, but by the Baltic in one case and the Rhine in the other, which the blockade would not touch even if applied directly to the German North Sea coast—Springfield Republican.

The sinking of the American ship William P. Frye by the German cruiser Eitel Friedrich was so obviously a blunder on the part of her commander that we look for a prompt disavowal of his act by the German ambassador on behalf of his government, and equally prompt restitution to her owners. Berlin will be dismayed, we are sure, that one of its naval commanders should show such gross ignorance of the laws of war and so so directly contrary to the position his government has taken as to foodstuffs since the beginning of hostilities. Germany has been contending right along that grain was not contraband, and has based her submarine blockade on England's alleged threat to starve out her civilian population. Now comes along this rash captain to assume the English position, and, in addition, to sink a neutral vessel without cause or reason. He cannot even allege that he was acting in accord with the German threat to sink out of hand merchant ships bound for Great Britain for the Frye was sunk on January 28, well before the German blockade of Great Britain was decided upon or announced. But even if it had been in force, it could hardly be said to apply to the South Atlantic Ocean. That Mr. Wilson will act with equal deliberation, but vigorously, is as clear as the fact that this episode gives the German government the opportunity to do a graceful and handsome act by not even waiting to hear from the State Department before righting an obvious wrong.—New York Evening Post.

War News Fifty Years Ago

(From the Richmond Dispatch, March 13, 1865.)

President Davis has informally requested Congress to remain in session a few days longer than the time fixed for adjournment as matters of great importance may require consideration. This has put all kinds of rumors afloat, and there is very much speculation in and out of Congress. One story is that Mr. Davis wants Congress to more explicitly define the powers of General Lee as general-in-chief of the Confederate army, and that if France has offered to intervene if the Confederate government would pledge itself to cede Louisiana to the Emperor, and to hereafter oppose the Monroe Doctrine. These are simply samples of the talk of the day, and are given for just what they are worth.

President Davis vetoed the bill to provide for the promotion of officers, and the Senate, in which the bill originated, has passed it over the veto by the necessary two-thirds vote.

Georgia is again wide-awake, and there has been a great recession in public sentiment. General Howell Cobb and Hon. H. Hill have made stirring speeches in Macon. The disposition now is to apply all the resources of the State to a resumption of the prosecution of the war.

Again we have to report that there is nothing doing on the part of the Federal Government. Grant continues his waiting game, and General Lee and his generals are watching his every movement or threatened movement.

A man named Clements, said to be from the State of Pennsylvania, has been arrested in Washington charged with threatening to assassinate President Lincoln on and since last inauguration day.

An extra session of the Union Legislature of Arkansas has been called by the so-called Governor Murphy to act on the constitutional amendment to abolish slavery in the United States.

The oil fever has broken out, and is on the increase. In the new State of West Virginia, land is said to be changing hands almost by whole counties. Many tracts have been resold two or three times within the last three months, double the cost price at each sale.

The Washington Chronicle says: "Vice-President Andrew Johnson did not make his appearance in the United States Senate on Wednesday in consequence of a more severe attack of rheumatism than he suffered on inauguration day."

The Voice of the People

Blue United With the Gray.
To the Editor of the Times-Dispatch:
Sir:—The "Blue and the Gray" again joined hands at the national capital on the day before Congress adjourned here in Richmond. Virginia, Slomp, of Virginia, Moore, of Pennsylvania, Graham, of Pennsylvania, and Mann, of Virginia, were seen in the past. The age of the \$100,000 war claim of the Virginia Military Institute of Lexington, Va. The vote of the House of Representatives, which was 100-0, was in favor of the measure. "First spoke and voted against the measure. The justice of the claim seemed to be well recognized by the Republicans no doubt would have succeeded if it had not been for the other leading men come to the rescue with speeches. A tardy justice, however, is better than none at all."
H. T. Aldrich, Republican.
Washington, D. C., March 11, 1915.

Confederate Use of Submarines.

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Queries and Answers

Disaster.
Please tell me what to do for a dog with disaster.

There are remedies to be had from the drug stores. Keep it in a dry, comfortable place and feed and water plentifully.

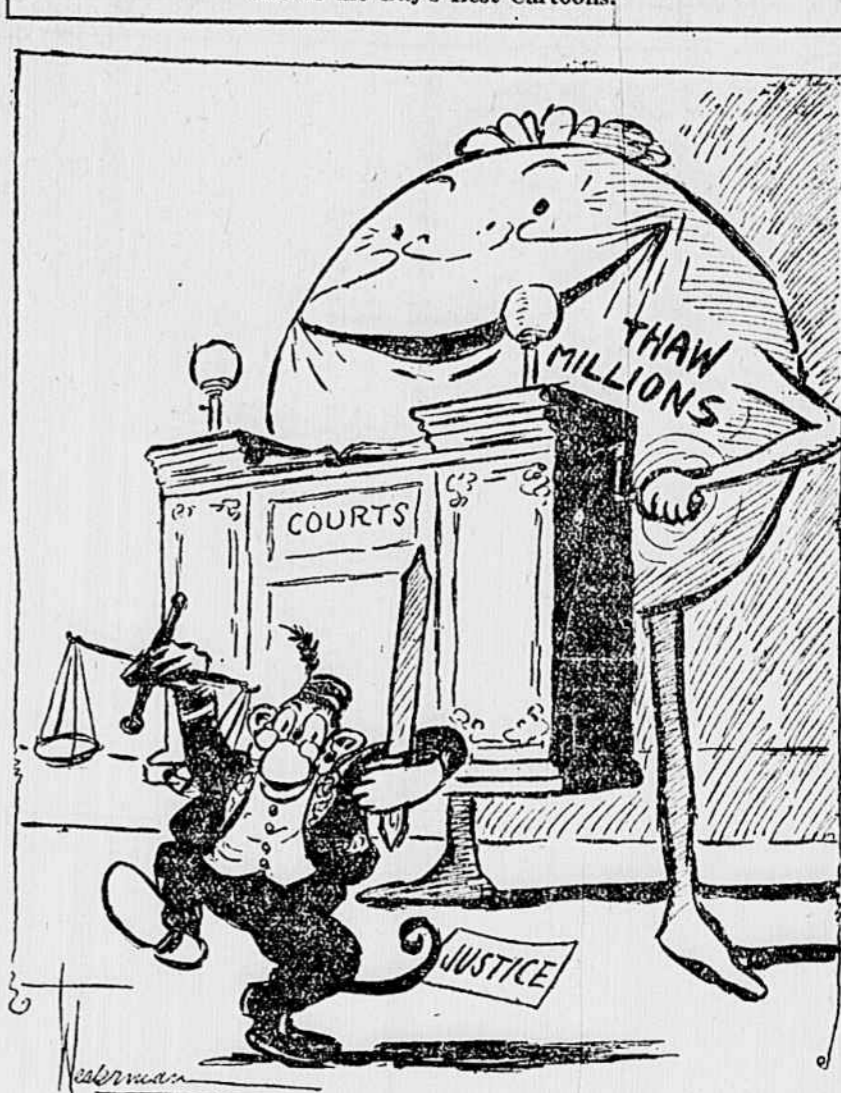
License.
Is a license required to carry on a house-to-house canvass in Richmond for articles made out of the State? Is license required for a mail order business?
G. M. PURKINS.
The Commissioner of Revenue, City Hall, can give you information regarding the circumstances of the business.

Cleveland, O.
Is there a Hollywood and a Hollywood Avenue in Cleveland, O., and how does Hollywood Avenue rank as streets?
There is no Hollywood. There is a Hollywood Road in the city, a desirable residence street, and Hollywood Avenue in Cleveland Heights, a suburb of Cleveland, and an attractive place.

Navies.
Which has the stronger navy, the United States or Italy?
The United States.

STILL AT IT

One of the Day's Best Cartoons.



—From the Ohio State Journal.

STATE BRUTAL TO WARDS

ALBANY, March 12.—Punishments described as "barbarous" are inflicted upon the girls who are committed to the New York State Training School for Girls at Hudson, according to the report of the recently abolished Department of Efficiency and Economy upon its investigations of State institutions.

The report, which was transmitted to the Legislature by John H. Delaney, the commissioner, before he left Albany, recommends that a new superintendent be selected in place of Dr. Hortense V. Bruce at the Hudson institution. The investigation of the training school was made in December and was one of the last to be conducted by the department.

The report also assails severely the management of the State Agricultural and Training School for Boys at Industry, near Rochester, and recommends that the next superintendent be chosen to replace David Bruce, who is charged with responsibility for "the worst run institution in the State."

The report contains a description of conditions in every prison, reformatory and State hospital, and is described as "the most sensational in many respects, and constitutes a severe indictment of the institutions."

"Water Cure" in Use.
A form of "water cure" for unruly girls is in use at the State Training School at Hudson, according to the report. The girls are around straddled. It is alleged, as part of the punishment for being impudent or disobedient. The system of punishments followed in this school, which admits girls from twelve to sixteen years of age, is described as "more severe than any in use in the State prisons, where the most desperate criminals are confined. Some of the methods of 'discipline' are described in the report as follows:

"If a girl speaks an immodest or a profane word her mouth is washed out with four teaspoonfuls of a compound prescribed by the physician, consisting of asafetida, gentian and nuxvomica. Four more serious cases of stripes of plaster are fastened diagonally across the mouth extending from the temples to the jaw on both sides of the face, with a wide piece across the mouth. According to the assistant superintendent, this plaster is kept on for twenty-four hours, but it was explained, 'We always lift the plaster for meals.'"

The "water cure" is described as follows: "The girl is taken to her room by the assistant superintendent, accompanied by the trained nurse of the hospital and one of the matrons of the cottage. The bedding is removed from her bed, a towel is rolled in a piece of cloth and the girl is placed on the towel. The girl's clothes are loosened and her hands are handcuffed behind her back and leg irons are put on her feet."

"Wet Towel Over Her Mouth."
"In this condition she is taken across the roll of blankets. The assistant superintendent sits on the knees of the girl while the hospital nurse dips a towel in water and holds it, sopping wet, over the mouth of the girl for ten minutes. The girl, being frightened, struggles and in the endeavor to breathe through the wet towel, draws in the water, and the treatment either strangles or suffocates her, and is kept up until the girl gives in."

Solitary confinement even more severe than that in vogue at the Bedford Reformatory is practiced at the State Training School for Girls. The cells are described as six by eight feet, without windows, with a door similar to a refrigerator door.

"The cells are denuded," says the report, "so that no ordinary sound can be heard by the occupant. There is nothing in the cell, and the girl is obliged to sit all day on the bare floor. She is provided with a supper of dry bread and water, the same for breakfast and for dinner has a meat and vegetable soup. The girl is turned loose in a fire exercise shed for an hour daily. The superintendent complains that these isolation cells are not entirely soundproof."

In some instances the girls at this institution permitted to converse, excepting for forty-five minutes of a so-called recreation hour, not even at their meals. They must maintain silence all day long, while they are obliged to sit all day on the bare floor. The buildings, in class and in marching from one building or room to another.

The chief complaint about the boys' school at Industry is the neglect of the boys, who are committed from nine years of age upward. It is charged that the boys are not properly fed, that they are not properly taught in school, that in the month of inspection last year no toilet soap for bathing had been furnished for the boys. In addition to being underfed and not kept clean, it is asserted that "clothing given to the boys is very poor, ragged and dirty."

"The truth is," sums up the report, "that all of the resources of this institution are made subservient to the state and convenience of the offices and employees. Cream is for the officers and dainties milk for the boys. Matron after matron at this institution stated that she needed double the supplies furnished her to give good meals to the little boys."

The report also sketched milk and poor food have been served to the patients in State hospitals as well as to inmates in reformatories. It contains a resume of the investigations into the food supplied to the patients in the insane hospitals which were conducted in the summer of 1914. The report on the prisons and reformatories was written by Charles Hervey Jackson, chief examiner. The report on State hospitals was written by the examiners and by Miss M. E. McCalmont, hospital expert, and A. L. Brockway, architectural expert.

State Could Save \$100,000.
Mr. Delaney incorporated in his report recommendations for the reorganization of the State prison system, the State hospital system and State reformatories and the methods of building and planning State institutions generally. It is asserted that \$100,000 can be saved in construction work if the State institutions are following the plans outlined in the report, which have already been adopted by several hospitals and charitable institutions.

It is considered possible that the reports of the investigations of institutions will assist in ousting the present State Hospital Commission and the Superintendent of Prisons, provided Governor Whitman takes up the charge of the State institutions.

Mr. Delaney attacks the prison system in the report, saying that it is "inefficient."

"In some prisons had food and dung, and in others the inmates, while in others the efforts of sanitary work have produced a condition where men who have committed serious crimes against society are accorded the most distinguished consideration. One prison in New York appears to be a prison only in the sense that the occupants must sleep at there."

"The remedy for prison conditions, in addition to sanitary cells, good food and a reasonable amount of recreation, is a reformatory system, where men who have committed serious crimes against society are accorded the most distinguished consideration. One prison in New York appears to be a prison only in the sense that the occupants must sleep at there."

"They should be put at labor early in the morning and kept at labor at least as long as a law-abiding man must work to support his family. Any special privileges should only be the reward for work."

Regarding the results of investigations of State hospitals for the care of the insane, Mr. Delaney asserts that it has been found that the "New York institutions for the insane have nothing of a hospital character except the name. They are as much custodial asylums as they were twenty-five years ago."

Quarantine of Vice
DETROIT, March 12.—Quarantine as a weapon against the social vice is an innovation which may be tried out in Detroit. Police and health board officials, who have been co-operating in an effort to check the spread of disease resulting from wide-open conditions in the red-light sections, are about ready to launch a new campaign, it is hinted. The new plan, which is experimental in nature, will be the quarantining of any resort which is reported to the police as a menace.

The quarantine method, it is said, will be employed as a substitute for the old method, now discarded of closing up resorts which failed to comply with the department's regulations providing for registration and medical inspection, or which failed to furnish the proper certificates of health. The failure of his "elimination" order by the commissioner is said to favor the quarantine plan.

Under the proposed new method, an effort that is considered a menace will be made to check the spread of disease in the red-light sections, which are as much a highly contagious disease as the vice.

Onward and Upward.
(Atchison (Kan.) Globe.)
Idiana has followed the example of Kansas in regulating the size of boys' skirts. Thus you see how the world moves onward and upward.